

Information Disclosure Statement

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97 and 1.98, the items identified in this Information Disclosure Statement (“IDS”) are brought to the attention of this Office. The items are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the listed art by the Examiner. A fee of \$180.00, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17(p), accompanies this response.

The items identified in the IDS may or may not be “material” pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56. The submission thereof by Applicant is not to be construed as an admission that any such patent, publication or other information referred to therein is material or considered to be material (37 C.F.R. Section 1.97(h)), or even qualifies as “prior art” under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 with respect to this invention unless specifically designated by Applicant as such. Notwithstanding the above, Applicant would like specifically draw the Examiner’s attention to U.S. Patent Nos. 4,468,802, 2,952,790, 5,987,097, 5,689,541, 5,511,104, 4,887,604, and 3,239,706 and foreign applications GB2015245, EP0432568, EP0584871, SU1022236, and EP0924742.